AKIRA 25™

KATSUHIRO OTOMO

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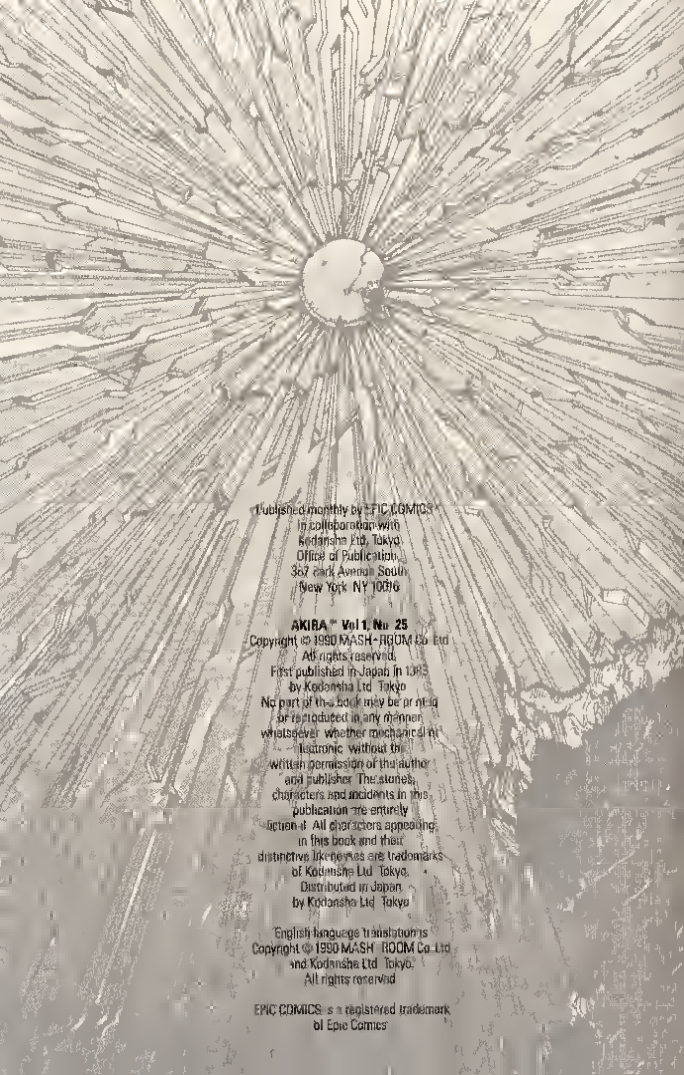

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AKIRA

BY KATSUHIRO OTOMO

Chapter 25

VISION UNDERGROUND

WHAT HAS GONE BEFORE

Twenty-thirty. The world hovers on the brink of World War IV. **Kaneda**, leader of a band of teenaged delinquents, leads his friends into a restricted area—the section of **Neo-Tokyo** known as the "old city", where, thirty eight years before, the first of the bombs fell.

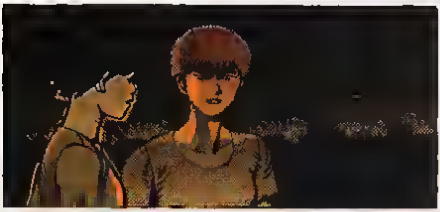
As a result, **Kaneda** and his friend **Tetsuo** become entangled in a power struggle between a mysterious military and scientific organization led by the **Colonel** and an underground resistance group bent on putting a stop to the Colonel's activities. Members of the resistance include **Kay**, **Ryu**, and a formidable woman named **Chiyoko**. Among their superiors is the blind **Lady Miyako**—a powerful religious leader with strong precognitive gifts.

The **Colonel** has a number of psychic children under his control: **Takashi**, **Kiyoko**, and **Masaru** are identified by numbers marked on their hands. **Number 28** is **Akira**, so powerful that since the war he has been suspended in cryogenic sleep.

The Colonel's staff conducts experiments which awaken tremendous telepathic potential in **Tetsuo**, who is redubbed **Number 41**. Able to shrug off the most serious injuries, **Tetsuo** goes on a killing spree, even attacking **Kaneda**. Followed by **Kay** and **Kaneda**, **Tetsuo** seeks out **Akira**, whose powers he fears may rival his own. In hibernation, Akira's power responds to Tetsuo's psychic energy. When **Tetsuo** reaches Akira's resting place, the cryogenic chamber cracks from within and Akira—dazed and docile from his long sleep—emerges.

The **Colonel** summons the powerful SOL military satellite and orders that its laser cannon be fired at **Tetsuo** and **Akira**. The two are separated by the blasts. **Akira** is saved by **Kay** and **Kaneda**, but the laser strikes Tetsuo's left arm. Afterward, **Neo-Tokyo** is placed in a state of military emergency with "caretaker robots" patrolling the streets and

Akira **The Colonel** **Kai** **Masaru**



keeping order.

Akira and the resistance fighters are cornered by the Colonel's troops, but all seems well when **Takashi** fondly greets **Akira**. Then **Nezu**, a former resistance leader who has betrayed his own side, arrives. He tries to kill **Akira**, but kills **Takashi** instead.

The trauma of Takashi's death galvanizes **Akira**. He fully awakens and unleashes a light blast powerful enough to devastate the entire city. **Masaru** and **Kiyoko** sweep most of the people in the area upward. **Kaneda** is last seen vanishing toward the sky. Afterward, **Lady Miyako** opens her temple and offers shelter and comfort to those in need, gathering large groups of followers in the East. **Neo-Tokyo** is completely cut off from the outside world. In the western part of the city the **Great Tokyo Empire** is formed —a monarchy with **Akira** as the figurehead and **Tetsuo** as his prime minister. Together the pair use their powers, healing the sick, wielding control of the faithful, and organizing their subjects into fighting units that destroy caretaker robots and conquer military and medical relief parties sent from the outside world. The **Empire** is eventually infiltrated by teams of spies from the outside.

Masaru and **Kiyoko** are sick with withdrawal from the drug which augments and channels mental powers, and when **Kiyoko**, whose powers are precognitive, tells **Kay** to find **Number 19**, **Lady Miyako** asks that **Kay** bring the other psychics to her when they are well.

Tetsuo's men kill most of the

Kiyoko **Kaori** **Ryu** **Seer**

spies from the outside but their leader, **Lt. Yamada** escapes when **Ryu** appears and leads him into the safety of an underground shelter. **Yamada** refuses to tell **Rhu** who has sent him. He does however reveal that Russia has conquered part of Japan and that the American fear of **Akira** makes them reluctant to get involved.

Tetsuo forces an orgy of sex and drugs on several young girls, only one of whom—**Kaori**—survives. Afterwards, **Tetsuo** looks into Akira's mind. He emerges a terrified wreck. When he recovers he decides that **Lady Miyako** may be able to explain matters to him. Taking a dose of the power-enhancing medication **Tetsuo** teleports to the temple of the religious leader **Lady Miyako** recounts to him the experiments decades earlier which created the psychic children and reveals that the third World War was begun by a mental blast from **Akira**. She also warns **Tetsuo** that he alone can control Akira's near inconceivable powers, but that he must first overcome his dependency on drugs. Disgusted and perplexed **Tetsuo** returns to his stronghold. There he neglects his duties of state, concentrating instead on trying to kick the habit.

Kay and **Chiyoko** try to move **Masaru** and **Kyoko** to Lady Miyako's temple but they are attacked by Tetsuo's followers who escape with **Kyoko**. **Chiyoko** rescues the girl but is badly wounded. The two are brought to safety by the **Colonel** who has been living in isolation. **Chiyoko**, delirious tells the **Colonel** to take the child to the temple where he'll also find **Masaru**.

Ryu and **Lt. Yamada** watch the **Empire** from hiding and are startled by an encounter with **Tetsuo**, whose withdrawal causes his powers to surge erratically. **Ryu** is even more startled when **Tetsuo** blurts out what his telepathy has shown him—that **Yamada** has come to assassinate **Akira**.

Tetsuo's lieutenant leads his army to Lady Miyako's temple and they slaughter all in their path—monks, penitents and helpless refugees. They are however, thwarted by the power of Lady Miyako's psychically gifted monks and defeated when **Kay** captures their leader. **Lady Miyako** refuses to permit the execution of their enemies. Tetsuo's men depart alive, bitterly

Kaneda **Chiyoko** **Lt. Yamada** **Kay**

swearing revenge. They return an hour later hungry for blood and victory.

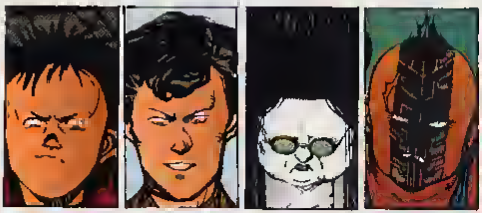
Meanwhile, the **Colonel** has been wounded and nearly killed by soldiers of the **Empire**, but escapes alive. Shortly after, **Tetsuo** returns to the shrine maddened by the pain of withdrawal, the **Colonel** arrives and uses a remote control that enables him to fire a blast from the SOL satellite. **Tetsuo** unleashes a wave of devastating psychic power. During the mayhem this creates, **Kaneda** reappears, as if from nowhere.

Tetsuo takes another inner voyage, reliving both happy and painful episodes from his past and seeing a vision of the double helix spiral that **Akira** constantly creates when he plays. Only **Kaori** is there to see **Tetsuo** return to the seat of the **Great Tokyo Empire** and bow down to his young lord. When their lieutenant returns, confesses his unauthorized attack on the shrine, and begs **Tetsuo** to help them overcome **Miyako**, **Tetsuo** refuses.

Aboard an American naval vessel, an international conclave of scientists assembles. They pool their knowledge of the **Akira** project, which they code-name **Juvenile A**. Their data indicates that the effect of Akiras power is like that of the Big Bang—the force that created the universe—and that the most recent blast (Tetsuos), lacked the scope and dimension of the earlier ones. They also theorize a link between the psychic blasts and the firing of SOL, over which the military is trying to regain control.

Kai leads **Kaneda** to a black market shop in the thieves quarter of the city beyond Miyako's shrine. Leading the thieves is **Joker**, former leader of the **Clown** motorcycle gang who were Kanedas bitterest enemies. However, **Kaneda**, **Joker** and **Kai** agree to work together and avenge Tetsuos crimes.

The **Colonel**, too, is after **Tetsuo**, blaming himself for the creation of what could turn out to be another **Akira**. **Kay** badgers him, hoping to make him reveal Chiyokos whereabouts. The **Colonel** gives **Kay** a chance to join him and the pair leave the shrine together. **Lady Miyako** is irate when she learns of this, and sends for **Kaneda**, imploring him to return with her "beloved" daughter.



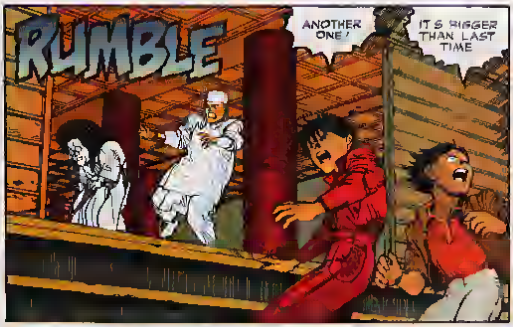
Tetsuo | Tetsuos Aide | Lady Miyako | Joker

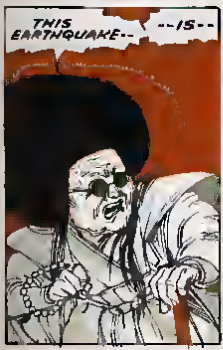
RRUMBLE
IT'S AN EARTHQUAKE!
RRUM
RRUMBLE
THOOM

IT WOULD SEEM TO BE OVER
WAS IT NUMBER 41'S DOING?
I DON'T KNOW.
TAP
TAP
TAP
TAP
HEY KANEDA
HMPH!
STAND BACK!
YOU ARE ALMOST IN THE PRESENCE OF LADY MIYAKO!
SHUT UP!

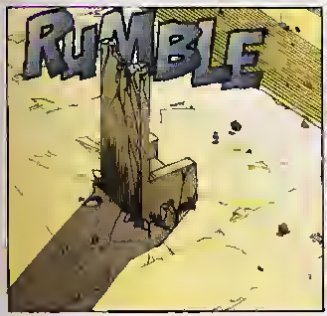
FIRST YOU SENT FOR ME, AND NOW YOU'RE TELLING ME TO STAY BACK? I DON'T HAVE TO TAKE THAT SHIT!
THANK YOU FOR BRINGING HIM!
HUH?
LADY MIYAKO!
YOU MAY LEAVE US NOW.
THE WICKED OLD WITCH CAME OUT OF HIDING!
MY REQUEST IS A SIMPLE ONE. I WANT YOU TO LOOK FOR KAY.
KAY'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS. IF I WANT HER, THEN I'LL GO AND FIND HER!
OF COURSE YOU WILL. BUT
SHE'S AS PRECIOUS TO ME AS THOUGH SHE WERE MY OWN DAUGHTER.
I BEG OF YOU TO BRING HER BACK.
PRECIOUS DAUGHTER?

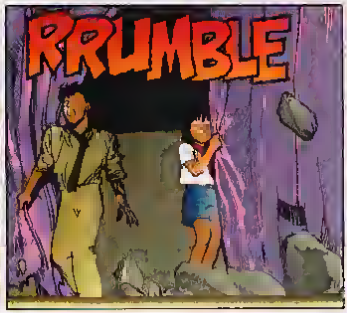
HMM?


RUMBLE
ANOTHER ONE!
IT'S BIGGER THAN LAST TIME


THIS EARTHQUAKE--
--IS--

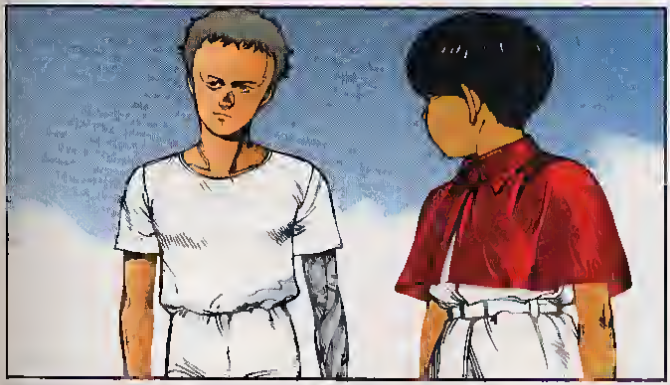
THOOM
KRASH


RUMBLE


RRUMBLE

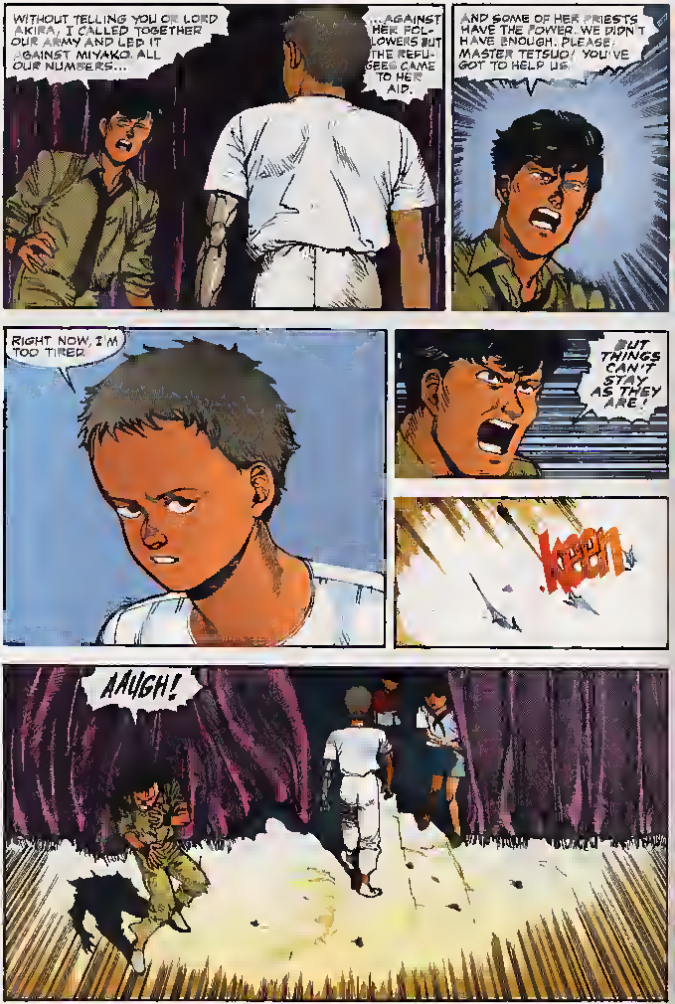
HUH?
LORD AKIRA!
AND MASTER TETSUO!

.....
WELCOME BACK!

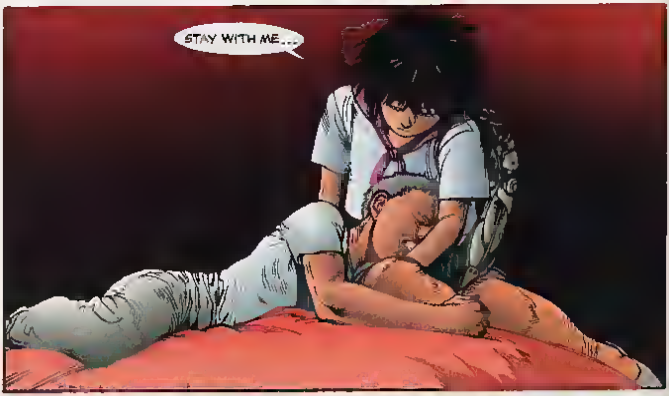


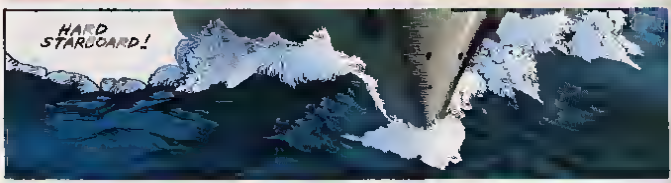
!

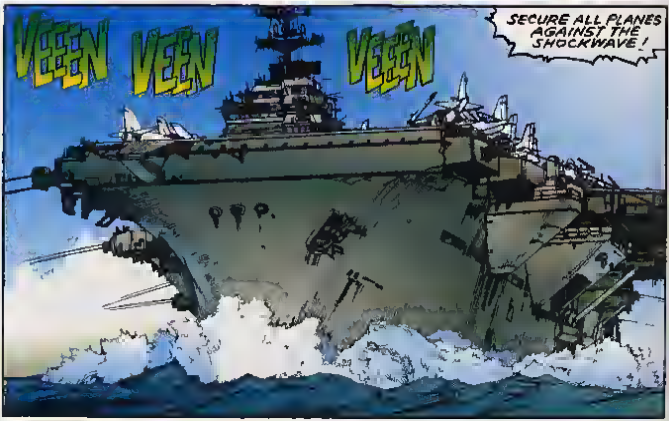
MASTER TETSUO
I HAVE A CONFESSION TO MAKE


WITHOUT TELLING YOU OR LORD AKIRA, I CALLED TOGETHER OUR ARMY AND LED IT AGAINST MIYAKO. ALL OUR NUMBERS...
...AGAINST HER FOLLOWERS BUT THE REFUGEES CAME TO HER AID.
AND SOME OF HER PRIESTS HAVE THE POWER. WE DIDN'T HAVE ENOUGH. PLEASE, MASTER TETSUO! YOU'VE GOT TO HELP US.
RIGHT NOW, I'M TOO TIRED.
BUT THINGS CAN'T STAY AS THEY ARE!
KRAK
AAUGH!

KAORI
YES


STAY WITH ME...

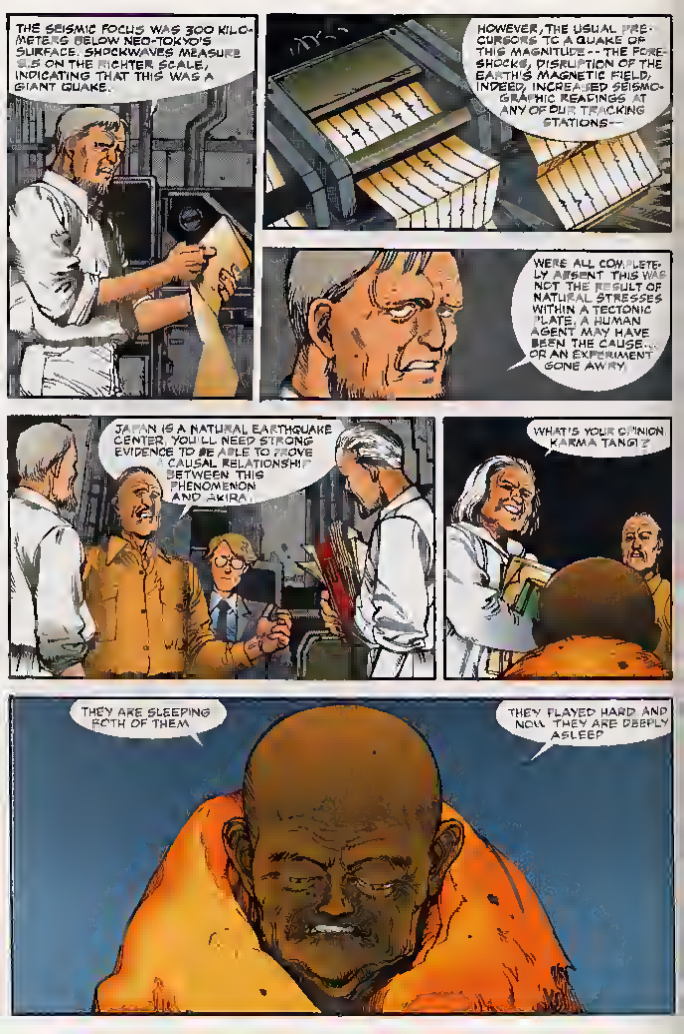

HARD STARBOARD!


VEEEN VEEEN VEEEN
SECURE ALL PLANES AGAINST THE SHOCKWAVE!

THERE'S A TSUNAMI APPROACHING THE SHIP!
ALL PLANES MUST BE SECURED BEFORE THE SHOCKWAVE HITS!
VEE VEE VEE
VEE VEE
drrrrrrn
RRRMM

RRRM
AAUGH!
KLONG
SHHM
FLUT
KLONK
KLANG

VEEN
LIFT THE RED ALERT! ALL SECTIONS REPORT YOUR DAMAGES
REPEAT! CANCEL THE RED ALERT!
IS EVERYONE ALL RIGHT?
WE'RE FINE, ADMIRAL.
I HAVEN'T BEEN SURFING SINCE I WAS IN HIGH SCHOOL
OF COURSE, THE BOARD--AND THE WAVES --WERE A LITTLE SMALLER BACK THEN.
EARLY REPORTS HAVE IT THE TIDAL WAVE WAS IN SOME WAY CONNECTED WITH AKIRA.
THE FACT IS
THE TSUNAMI IS OF LESS IMPORTANCE
THAN THE EARTHQUAKE WHICH CAUSED IT
SHIFT


THE SEISMIC FOCUS WAS 300 KILOMETERS BELOW NEO-TOKYO'S SURFACE. SHOCKWAVES MEASURED 6.5 ON THE RICHTER SCALE, INDICATING THAT THIS WAS A GIANT QUAKE.
HOWEVER, THE USUAL PRECURSORS TO A QUAKE OF THIS MAGNITUDE -- THE FORESHOCKS, DISRUPTION OF THE EARTH'S MAGNETIC FIELD, INDEED, INCREASED SEISMOGRAPHIC READINGS AT ANY OF OUR TRACKING STATIONS--
WERE ALL COMPLETELY ABSENT. THIS WAS NOT THE RESULT OF NATURAL STRESSES WITHIN A TECTONIC PLATE. A HUMAN AGENT MAY HAVE BEEN THE CAUSE... OR AN EXPERIMENT GONE AWRY.
JAPAN IS A NATURAL EARTHQUAKE CENTER. YOU'LL NEED STRONG EVIDENCE TO BE ABLE TO PROVE A CAUSAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THIS PHENOMENON AND AKIRA.
WHAT'S YOUR OPINION KARMA TANG?
THEY ARE SLEEPING. BOTH OF THEM.
THEY PLAYED HARD AND NOW THEY ARE DEEPLY ASLEEP.

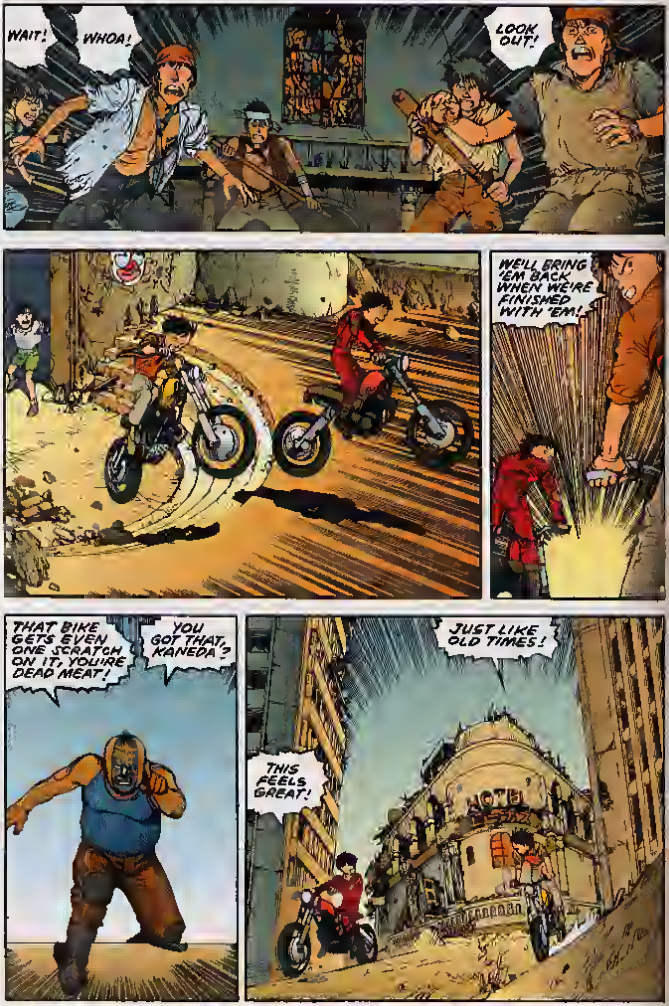
YOU STILL HAVEN'T SAID IF YOU'LL GRANT ME THIS FAVOR.
I KNOW YOU'RE CONCERNED FOR HER TOO.
SURE I AM!
BUT I NEED A FAVOR TOO!
NAME IT
I'M IN DEBT, AND THAT MEANS TROUBLE!
HEH HEH-HEH-HEH...
LIKE YOU SAID SHE'S LADY BOUNTIFUL
I WAS SWEATING BUCKETS
YOU PROMISED TO LOOK FOR KAY.
BUT WHERE?!

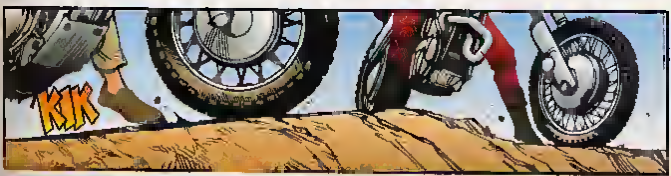
I THINK KAY TOLD ME L ST NIGHT.
I DON'T REMEMBER THAT.
YOU AN' ME WERE WITH JOKER LAST NIGHT!
I KNOW.
IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE!
I DON'T KNOW HOW I COULD HAVE...
...BUT I'M SURE I HEARD HER!
SO, WHERE IS SHE?
SHE'S... SHE'S... UMMM...
YEAH, RIGHT! UH, BULL-SHIT!
I KNOW IT!
HUH?
THAT WAY. IN WHAT USED TO BE THE EIGHTH DISTRICT

THEY ARE PASSING OUT OF THE EIGHTH DISTRICT AND ARE ABOUT TO INVADE OUR EMPIRE!
WE MUST STRENGTHEN OUR DEFENSES! WITH ALL THE MIGHT OF THE GREAT TOKYO EMPIRE RANGED AGAINST THEM, WE HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR!

KRAK
KUSH
COLONEL..
IT'S NOTHING..
WE'RE ALMOST THERE

KANEDAA!
DRRRN
THAT BIKE'S NOT FOR SALE AT ANY PRICE!
A BIKES GOT TO BE RIDDEN, NOT KEPT AROUND FOR SHOW, YOU MISER!!
SKREE
DO YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MOTORCYCLE COST ME?
HEY!
GANGWAY!
DRN


WAIT!
WHOA!
LOOK OUT!
WE'LL BRING 'EM BACK WHEN WE'RE FINISHED WITH 'EM!
THAT BIKE GETS EVEN ONE SCRATCH ON IT, YOU'RE DEAD MEAT!
YOU GOT THAT, KANEDA?
JUST LIKE OLD TIMES!
THIS FEELS GREAT!

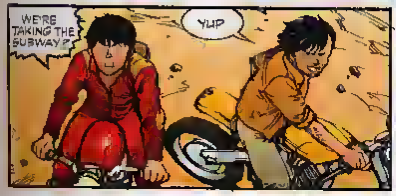

KIK

LUCKY WE GOT THESE WHEELS, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE SLOW GOING AHEAD.
I KNOW A SHORTCUT

THIS WAY!

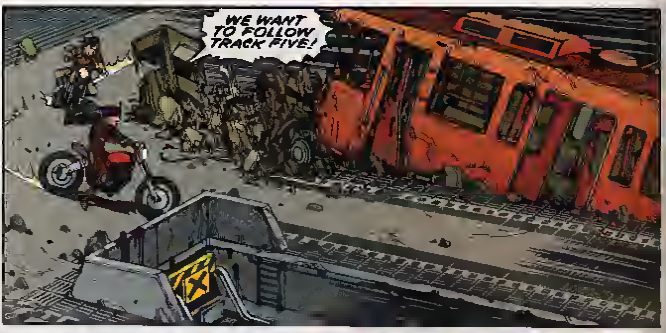
B-2
西大久保 駅

I HOPE IT DOESN'T CAVE IN
WE WON'T KNOW TILL WE TRY

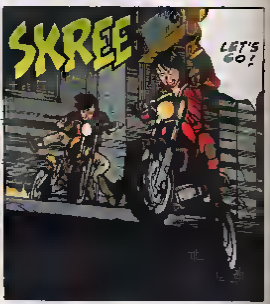

WE'RE TAKING THE SUBWAY?
YUP

HFF.
HFF.
HFF.
HFF.
HFF.
DO YOU WANT TO REST HERE?
NO. I'M ALL RIGHT. LET'S GO...
OHH!

HMMM
WHERE DO WE TRANSFER TO GET TO THE EIGHTH DISTRICT?
I THINK WE TAKE THE OIZUMI LINE
ANYWAY, LET'S GO
KUK
DRRRN
POW
EXCELLENT!


WE WANT TO FOLLOW TRACK FIVE!

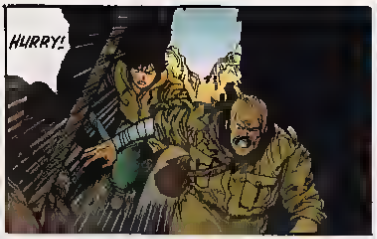
5


SKREE
LET'S GO!

YOU'VE INVADED OUR LAND!
THROW DOWN YOUR WEAPONS AND SURRENDER!
THREE OF THEM ARE ARMED. ONLY ONE HAS A SECURE FOOTING.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE OTHER TWO.
RUSH RIGHT FOR THE CENTER OF THE GIANTS CHEST... IT'S THE ONLY POSSIBLE ANGLE.
TAK
HUNH?!
Tap Tap
HEY!

BLAM BLAM
WHACH!
BLAM
EEP!
TOKKA BLAM
POW

THAM
WOOUH!
AHH-!
!
PLOK
DAMN!
WAOOUH!
THIS WAY, QUICKLY


HURRY!

JUMP!

...OOH...MMM...

WUUOOHH!

HURRY, COLONEL!
EHH?

WUUOOOOH!

YAAH!
COLONEL!
THUD
HUFF
HUFF
ARE YOU HURT? WHAT ABOUT YOUR WOUND?

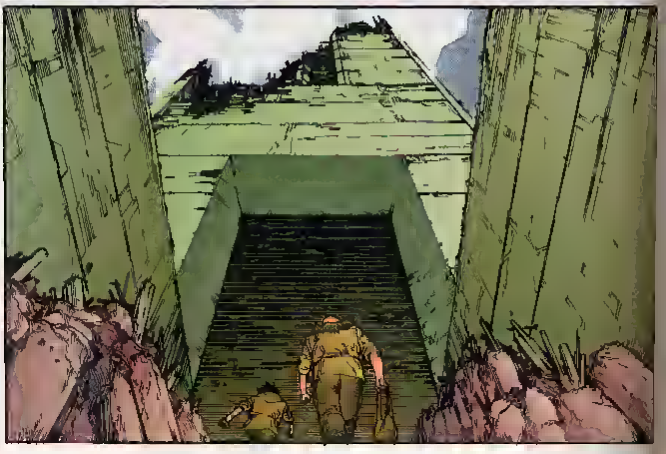
¡GASP!
¿HUNH?
OVER THERE

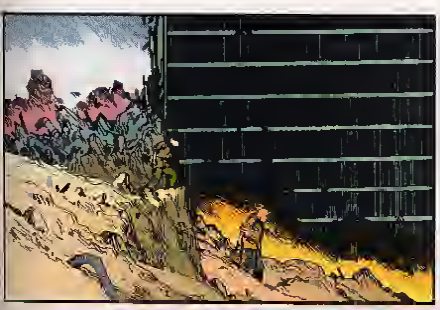
FILM
7区
南音羽
DRRRN
DRRRN
WE'RE ALMOST THERE.
RRN
RRN
HMM...?
HUNH?

REST A PARCE
HEY! C'MERE AND TAKE A LOOK!
WHAT, DID YOU FIND SOMEONE YOU KNOW?
WHOA!
IT'S THE ARMY'S ONE OF THOSE FLYING PLATFORMS
WHAT'S IT DOING HERE? WERE THEY FLYING IT UNDERGROUND?
CHECK THAT OUT

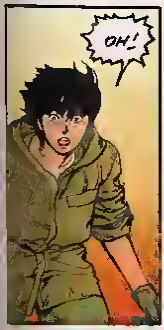
SOMEWHERE DOWN HERE MUST BE A PLACE WHERE THE SUBWAY HOOKS UP WITH THE BASE THESE THINGS COME FROM...
SO ALL THE SLIME DOWN HERE WEREN'T JUST PEOPLE FROM THE SURFACE LOOKING FOR SHELTER
I WONDER IF...?
ANYWAY, WE CAN BRING IT BACK TO JOKER. MAKE A NICE SOUVENIR
DRRRN

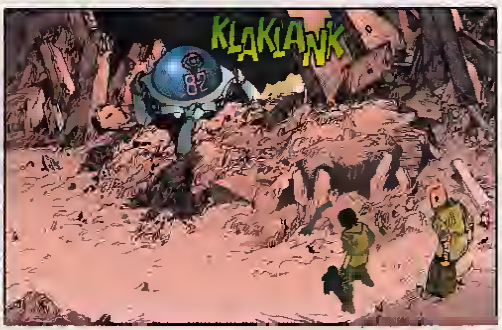
THIS IS...
YOU'VE BEEN HERE BEFORE, HAVEN'T YOU?
YEAH.





BHOOM
82


OH!


KLAKLANK
82

IT'S ME!

BHOOM

KLAKLANK

YOU'VE GOT IT VERY WELL-TRAINED.
LET'S HURRY.
IT'S EQUIPPED WITH A VOICE-PRINT RESPONSE MECHANISM.
SKUF
THEY WENT IN HERE
REINFORCEMENTS SHOULD BE HERE SOON

AHH!
?HMF!?

THIS IS A PROB-LEM.

YOU KNOW THIS PLACE IS OFF-LIMITS EXCEPT TO AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL.

IS THE WOMAN I LEFT HERE ALL RIGHT?

I REALLY COULDN'T SAY
SHE HASN'T MOVED SINCE YESTERDAY.

!
CHIYOKO!
SHE'S ALIVE WEAK BUT ALIVE

THEY WOULDN'T HAVE THAT THING ON GUARD IF THERE WASN'T SOMETHING WORTH DEFENDING INSIDE.
SOMEONE DISTRACT IT! THE REST OF YOU GET INTO THE BUILDING!
KLAT
NOW!
WOOUH!

SHPOW
AAUGH!!
BLAAT
82
TAKTAKTAK
THOK
SHOW
ZAP
ALL RIGHT! WE JAMMED IT OPEN!
TAKE A LEAK INSIDE AND SHORT-CIRCUIT IT!
YEAH! SEE HOW IT LIKES THAT!

DRRRR
ARE YOU GONNA JUST KEEP GOING TILL WE DROWN?
THE WATER DOESN'T GET ANY DEEPER THAN THIS!
WHAT'S THAT?
HUNH?
KEEE

SPLUSH
!
WHAT IS THAT?!

¿GASP!¿
KAY...

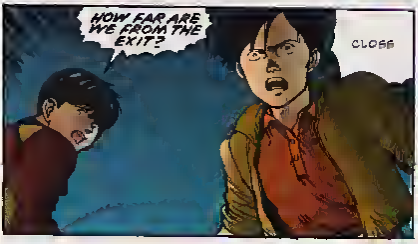
W-WAIT--!
WAA!

KEEEN
AAGH--!

YOU SAW IT TOO, DIDN'T YOU? IT WAS KAY, RIGHT?

SHE WALKED RIGHT THROUGH YOU...

.....

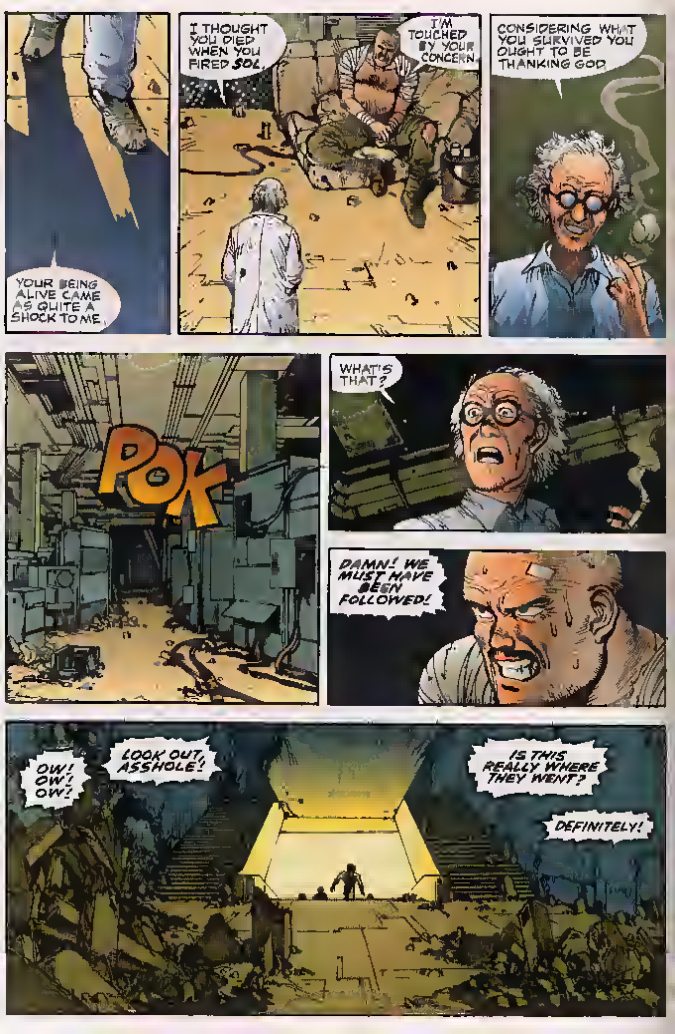

HOW FAR ARE WE FROM THE EXIT?
CLOSE

THEN LET'S GO.

DRRN

I HOPE NOTHING BAD'S HAPPENED TO HER.
WE'LL SEE SOON ENOUGH.

JUST WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO ... CARRY HER ON YOUR BACK?
TILL I'M HALFWAY TO THE SHRINE.
THEN I'LL ASK LADY MIYAKO'S MEN TO HELP ME.
DO YOU REALLY THINK YOU'RE UP TO THE JOB?
...


YOUR BEING ALIVE CAME AS QUITE A SHOCK TO ME.
I THOUGHT YOU DIED WHEN YOU FIRED $OL.
I'M TOUCHED BY YOUR CONCERN.
CONSIDERING WHAT YOU SURVIVED YOU OUGHT TO BE THANKING GOD.
POK
WHAT'S THAT?
DAMN! WE MUST HAVE BEEN FOLLOWED!
OW! OW! OW!
LOOK OUT, ASSHOLE!
IS THIS REALLY WHERE THEY WENT?
DEFINITELY!

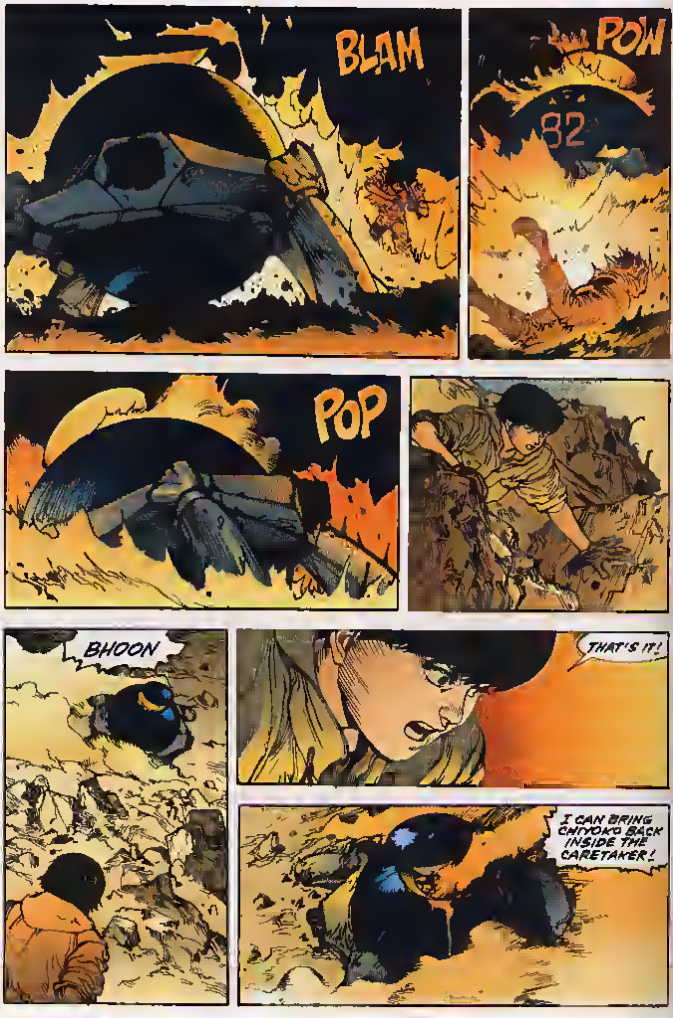
CIRCLE AROUND THE OTHER SIDE!
AND BE CAREFUL!
THEY'RE HERE, AREN'T THEY?!
TOK TOK TOK
WE CAN'T MAKE A STAND IN HERE. YOU'VE GOT TO LURE THEM BACK OUTSIDE!
RIGHT!
? ?
WH- WHAT'S OUT THERE?
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
YEAH.
HEY! WAIT FOR ME!
SIGH!
NOW LOOK WHO'S IN CHARGE!

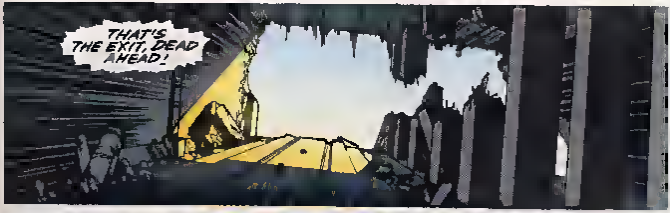
BEEP
BIP
THIS COMPUTER'S ON!
LOOK! THERE GOES SOMEONE!
THAT WAY!
FIRE!
BLAM
BLAM

YAIEE!
KLATTER
AAH--!
HERE SHE COMES!
BUDDA BUDDA
SHFFF
DOWN THERE! FIRE!

BLAM!
BLAM!
DAMN!
KLIK
KLIK
HUNH ?
SWUP
POW
!
BLAM!
THOK

AARGH!
BOP
BLAM
DAMN YOU!!
BORPLE
BYDON
82
IT'S STILL TICKING!
HUHH?
BANG
BANG
BANG


BLAM
POW
82
POP
BHOON
THAT'S IT!
I CAN BRING CHIYOKO BACK INSIDE THE CARETAKER!


THAT'S THE EXIT, DEAD AHEAD!

SKREEE

OOPS!

UHH... NOW WHAT?
BEATS ME.
BLAM BLAM
!
GUNFIRE...?
THAT'S WHAT IT SOUNDS LIKE.
MOVE IT!
DRRRN
SKRRZZT
CHAAARGE!
YEEHAH!

OHH--!
BOP
WAAAA--
--AAA--
--AAA--
--HAAH!!

TOK
TOK
COLONEL...?
HUM?
OH. IT'S YOU!
I NEED YOUR HELP.
MY HELP ...?
YOU WANT TO USE THE CARETAKER TO TRANSPORT YOUR FRIEND?
RIGHT! JUST LIKE THE COLONEL DID WITH KIYOKO
AND I NEED YOU TO PROGRAM IT!

NEXT ISSUE: **ASSASSINATION CORPS!**

AKIRA the movie AN UPDATE

Upcoming AKIRA dates include

ANN ARBOR, MI
MICHIGAN THEATER
September 28—30

INDIANAPOLIS, IN
IRVING THEATER
September 28—October 4

TEMPE, AZ
VALLEY ART THEATER
October 12—18

EUGENE, OR
BIJOU THEATER
October 12—19

NEW YORK, NY
THE NEW FILM FORUM
begins October 19

PROVIDENCE, RI
AVON CINEMA
November 30—December 6

RHINEBECK, NY
UPSTATE THEATER
October 26—November 1

ATHENS, GA
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
October 26—27

HONOLULU, HI
ACADEMY THEATER
October 27—29

CHARLESTON, WV
CAPITAL PLAZA MUSIC HALL
October 30

LOS ANGELES AREA
MONTCLAIR, CA
GENERAL CINEMA
November 3—4

LANSING, MI
ODEON THEATER
November 2—8

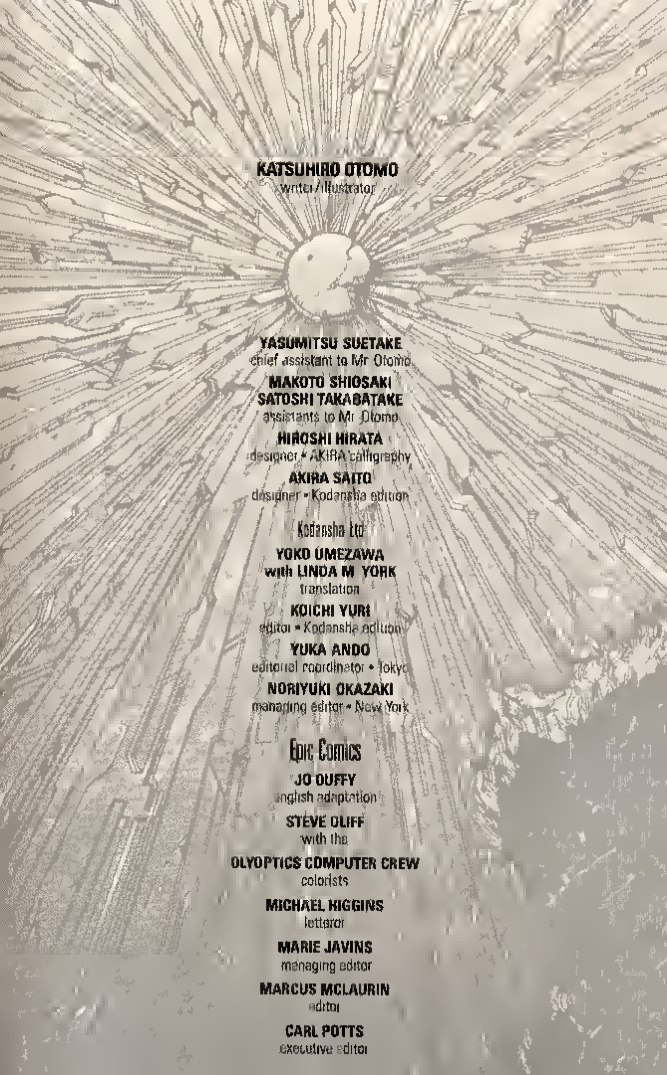
MIAMI, FL
BEAUMONT THEATER
November 9—15

ALBUQUERQUE, NM
SUB THEATER at the UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO
November 15—17

PHILADELPHIA, PA
ROXY SCREENING ROOM
December 7—13

DETROIT, MI
DETROIT INSTITUTE OF ARTS
December 14—16

Also check your local specialty or art theater listings for the **AKIRA** playdates nearest you



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managing editor • New York

Epic Comics

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english adaptation
STEVE OLIFF
with the
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managing editor
MARCUS MCLAURIN
editor
CARL POTTS
executive editor

It begins with the sudden and mysterious quake that rocks Tokyo the very Earth turning betrayer in a display of bullying might It grows in a sweep of passion sending Kay on a dangerous search for Chiyoko with Kaneda in a no less harrowing pursuit of Kay And it thunders out of control in the madness that drives a giant s blood soaked rampage

They are all natural forces at play in the city this day rolling and unpredictable powers battering the survivors from without and within And like all natural forces these are destined to run their course and when they have who can say what will remain?

KATSUHIRO OTOMO'S

AKIRA

4 7 6 5 2 3 0 6 8 0